

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

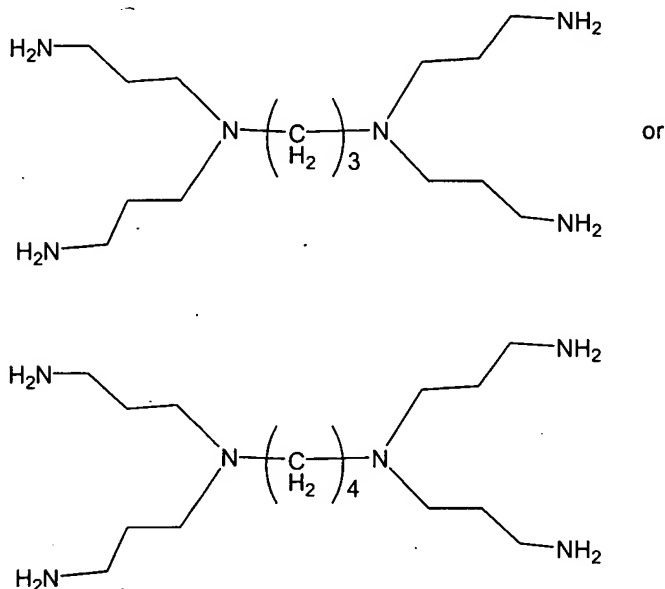
Page 12, paragraph [0037]: Please delete and insert the following:

[0037] Polymers of the invention are crosslinked materials, meaning that they do not dissolve in solvents, and, at most, swell in solvents. The ratio ~~rate~~ of swelling is expressed as the weight ratio of the swollen gel in a buffer to the dried crosslinked polymer. The ratio ~~rate~~ of swelling in physiological isotonic buffer, representative of the milieu of use, i.e. the gastrointestinal tract, is typically in the range of about 1.2 to about 100, preferably about 2 to 20.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A polymeric composition comprising a crosslinked amine polymer, wherein said polymer comprises ~~an~~ a crosslinked amine, said amine being at least one of

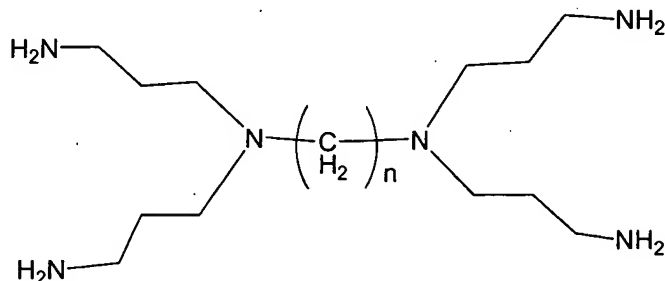


and said amine being polymer is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent.

28. (currently amended) The polymeric composition as recited in claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein said crosslinking agent is 1,3-dichloropropane or epichlorohydrin.

29. - 43. (canceled)

44. (new) A polymeric composition comprising a crosslinked amine polymer, the polymer comprising a crosslinked amine,

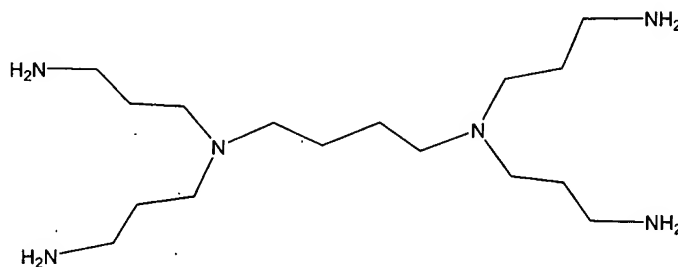


wherein n is 3, 4 or 5, and the amine is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent.

45. (new) The polymeric composition of claim 44 wherein n is 3.

46. (new) The polymeric composition of claim 44 wherein n is 5.

47. (new) A polymeric composition comprising a crosslinked amine polymer, the polymer comprising a crosslinked amine,



wherein the amine is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent.

48. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinking agent is a compound having at least two functional groups, each functional group being selected from halogen, carbonyl, epoxy, ester, acid anhydride, acid halide, isocyanate, vinyl, and chloroformate.

49. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinking agent is epichlorohydrin.

50. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the molar ratio of crosslinking agent to amine ranges from about 0.2 to about 10.

51. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the molar ratio of crosslinking agent to amine ranges from about 0.2 to about 5.
52. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinked amine polymer is insoluble in a physiological isotonic buffer.
53. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinked amine polymer has a swelling ratio in physiological isotonic buffer ranging from about 1.2 to about 100.
54. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinked amine polymer has a swelling ratio in physiological isotonic buffer ranging from about about 2 to 20.
55. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinked amine polymer has a phosphate binding capacity in a non-interfering buffer ranging from about 0.5 mmol/g to about 10 mmol/g.
56. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinked amine polymer has a phosphate binding capacity in a non-interfering buffer ranging from about 2.5 mmol/g to about 8 mmol/g.
57. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the crosslinked amine polymer has a phosphate binding capacity in a non-interfering buffer ranging from about 3 mmol/g to about 6 mmol/g.
58. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the polymer is a copolymer comprising several different amines as crosslinked amine moieties.

59. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the polymer is a copolymer further comprising a diamine, a triamine or a tetramine as crosslinked amine moieties.

60. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the polymer is a copolymer further comprising a diamine as crosslinked amine moieties.

61. (new) The polymeric composition of claims 27, 44 or 47 wherein the polymer is a copolymer further comprising 1,3diaminopropane as crosslinked amine moieties.

62. (new) The polymeric composition of claim 47 wherein the crosslinking agent is epichlorohydrin, the molar ratio of crosslinking agent to amine ranges from about 0.2 to about 5, the polymer is insoluble in a physiological isotonic buffer, the polymer has a swelling ratio in physiological isotonic buffer ranging from about 2 to 20, and the polymer has a binding capacity in a non-interfering buffer ranging from about 2.5 mmol/g to about 8 mmol/g.